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REAGAN'S GOAL Cutting Castro Down to Size



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Whatever their differences, the President and Haig agree that Cuba's leader must be stopped. Next question: How to do it—and at what cost.

The taming of Fidel Castro is emerging as a high-priority objective for the Reagan administration.

The President himself is determined to see Cuba's Communist leader end his campaign of international troublemaking and withdraw his soldiers from global adventures.

That much has been decided, according to policymaking officials of high rank. What remains to be decided is by what means Castro is to be cut down to size.

A still guarded and highly controversial plan to achieve that objective has been drafted by an interagency task force under the overall direction of Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

What is proposed, in effect, is a private ultimatum to Castro to quit exporting revolution and to bring between 30,000 and 40,000 of Cuba's combat troops home from Angola and Ethiopia.

The objective, in the words of one strategic planner, is to induce him "to give up the pretense that his little island with its 10 million inhabitants is a superpower."

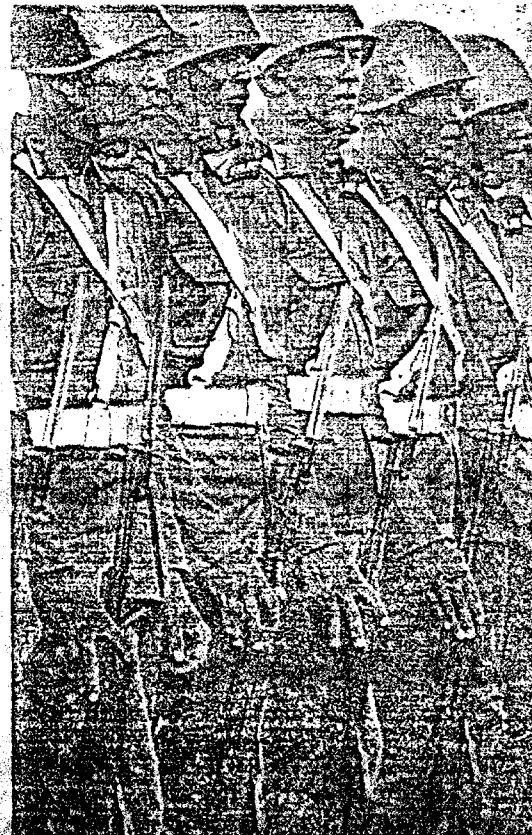
If he acquiesces, he can count on compensation in the form of normalization of relations with the United States, trade, technology and other economic benefits.

If, on the other hand, Castro refuses and continues to arm Marxist revolutionaries in Central America and else-

where, the "Haig plan" catalogs a broad range of measures calculated to bring the Cuban ruler into line—including a possible blockade and other military action.

Whether Reagan is prepared to move as far, as fast and as forcefully against Castro as his tough-minded Secretary of State still is uncertain—all the more so in the light of White House moves in late March to rein in Haig and to keep the attention of Americans

DIEGO GOLDBERG—SYGMA



Union.

A recent visitor quotes Haig as saying: "When I give the man down the road [Reagan] this paper on Cuba, he will have the chance to revitalize the American spirit."

Close aides say that the Secretary of State considers a clear-cut international victory as essential to the success of his strategy. And, they add, he has decided that a triumph over Castro is the success worthy of top priority.

Haig's reasoning is summed up this way by one ranking official: "We must demonstrate to everyone—the Russians, our allies, the Third World—that we can win, that we can be successful. We must move decisively and quickly to turn things around in the world or we will be nibbled to death by the Soviets."

The basic decision to contain Castro—a decision endorsed by the White House—is underscored by the dispatch of American military aid and advisers

Where Cuba Foment Trouble For U.S.

NICARAGUA. Up to 5,000 Cuban advisers, military and civilian, help Sandinistas to consolidate power, extend Marxist influence into Central America.

EL SALVADOR. U.S. State Department alleges Cuba has been major source of arms supplies and training for Marxist guerrillas.

GRENADA. Marxist government converted island into Cuban satellite with support of 300-strong Castro team.

COLOMBIA. Its government suspended relations with Cuba on March 23, accusing Castro of training leftist guerrillas who staged unsuccessful invasion in early March.

ANGOLA. Cuban force of helped

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